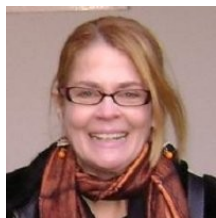


Maryland Numismatist



King of Beasts in the Hobby of Kings



**Smithsonian's Curator Karen
M. Lee to speak in Baltimore
on June 21 2PM room 330**

Summer, 2013 Volume 41 – No. 2

**The
Maryland
State
Numismatic
Association,
Inc.**



The *MARYLAND NUMISMATIST* is the quarterly publication of MSNA and is distributed to all members in good standing without additional cost.

<http://mdstatenumisassn.org>

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President's Message

I write this message while on a flight to Portland, Maine for a long Memorial Day weekend. Among the sites I will revisit are two that are featured on National Parks quarters: Acadia National Park in Maine and the White Mountains in New Hampshire.

June will bring the BANC Show on the second and the Whitman Show on the 20th to 23rd. In association with the Whitman Show, MSNA will be presenting the fifth annual Distinguished Lecture featuring Karen Lee, Associate Curator of the Smithsonian's National Numismatic Collection. Ms. Lee's talk will be entitled "The Private Sketchbook of George T. Morgan, America's Silver Dollar Artist." Mr. Morgan was, of course, the designer of the widely collected Morgan dollar series. The talk will take place on Friday, June 21 at 2 PM in room 330 of the Baltimore Convention Center. There is no admission charge.



Another activity that will take place in June for those of us who are ANA members is voting for ANA Officers. MSNA's (and Montgomery County Coin Club's) own Scott Barman is running to be an ANA Board Member. Scott, who developed and maintains the MSNA website, would bring IT experience that could help the ANA reach out to tech-savvy individuals in their 20's and 30's - a group that is conspicuously under-represented on the ANA's membership rolls. More information about Scott's candidacy can be found at <http://vote4scott.info>. Another effort that Scott is undertaking is to try to have ANA bring a convention to the Nation's Capital.



One other item we can look forward to is the release later this summer of the Maryland quarter in the National Park series. The Maryland quarter will feature Fort McHenry - vindication of sorts for those of us who felt that Fort McHenry would have been a better choice for the design of the original Maryland State Quarter than a piece of the State House! [photo courtesy USMint.gov]



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Karen Lee to Speak on Morgan's Sketchbook



The fifth speaker in the Maryland State Numismatic Association (MSNA) annual Distinguished Lecturer Series will be Curator Karen M. Lee of the National Numismatic Collection housed at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. She will speak on George T. Morgan's sketchbook and autograph copies of her book, *The Private Sketchbook of George T. Morgan, America's Silver Dollar Artist*.

Whitman's web site describes the book as follows: Introducing Morgan's never-before-published personal sketchbook and with unique access to family photographs and documents, Lee reveals the man behind the coins. This amazing new work is an eye-opening immersion into the designer's "life of art and labor." Central to this beautifully illustrated volume are 80 pages of Morgan's personal and professional sketchbook - the entirety of the creative journal that he carried from his native England to the United States in the 1870's - which is one of the treasures of the Smithsonian's National Numismatic Collection. Morgan worked out his designs in this book not over weeks or months, not even simply for a few years, but over the course of nearly two decades. The sketchbook could easily have been lost to history over the almost century since Morgan died in 1925. Now brought to light for the first time, it shows us the creative process of one of America's unsung artistic geniuses.

Ms. Lee has a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a Masters in Museum Studies. Her extensive background in museum design and curating includes a wide variety of exhibitions on science, technology, popular culture and most recently, have focused her attention on enhancing public awareness of the National Numismatic Collection which will involve plans to expand the numismatic space in Smithsonian's American History Museum on the national mall.

The talk will be on Friday, June 21 at 2 PM in room 330 at the Whitman Coin Expo at the Baltimore Convention Center.

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Whitman Expo Exhibits

The MSNA exhibit area at the Whitman Baltimore Coin Expo in March held nine exhibits by seven exhibitors.



Best of Show (1/10 oz. platinum eagle): *Boy for Sale? Tokens for the Redemption of the Firstborn Son* by Simcha Kuritzky. This exhibit also won a Star Spangled Banner uncirculated dollar from the Maryland Token And Medal Society for best exonumia exhibit. This exhibit was significantly re-worked since its 2011 showing.



Master (1/10 oz. gold eagle): *The View from Mr. Franklin's Window* (medals and coins commemorating ballooning in 1790s France when Franklin was resident in Paris) by Sandra Emme. This exhibit also won third place in the Medals class at the 2012 summer ANA Show.



Superior (1/20 oz. gold Australian): *My Two Cents Worth...* (history of the U.S. two cent piece with both regular strike and proof examples from 1864-1873) by William Anderson.

Appreciation Awards of a U.S. silver American eagle or 1988 MSNA silver medal went to Exhibit Chairman Bryce Doxzon for his non-competitive exhibit *A Medallion "Tribute To Her Heroic Sons": The Pennsylvania State Memorial Medal*, to Tom Corey for *A Selection of Personifications on Ancient Roman Silver Coins* and *South Hills Coin Club Dealer Badges*, to Stephen Shaw for *1870 Prussian Iron Cross & Campaign Medal*, and to William Stratemeyer for *George Washington. Henrietta Szold: Baltimore Humanitarian "of Note"* by Simcha Kuritzky did not receive an award since there is a limit of one award per exhibitor.

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FELINE SPECIES NUMISMATIC TYPE SET

Part Two of Two

By Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

4. Puma Clade

Puma, Cougar, Mountain Lion, or Catamount (*Puma concolor*)

on circulation-style silver commemorative U. S. half dollar 1927 KM162



The puma clade evolved around nine million years ago, and the puma or cougar evolved five million years ago. Although they are nearly as large as panthers, they are only distantly related. The puma is the largest of the small cats--they can grow up to 8' in length (including the tail) and weigh up to 200 pounds. Pumas used to live in all of the sub-arctic Americas but are now confined to the Rockies, Ozarks, and

Florida. The Latin name *concolor* means one color, and while pumas have tawny coats, white underbellies and black tail tips, as adults they do not sport any of the spots and stripes found on other native American cats. The eastern cougar is the only feline portrayed on U.S. coinage--the 1927 Vermont sesquicentennial half dollar. This coin was issued at a time when Congress was swamped with requests for commemorative coins. The Fine Arts Commission clamped down by insisting that any coin must have artistic merit. The Vermont piece commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Bennington, and indirectly, Vermont's independence earlier that year. It was originally to portray Ira Allen on the obverse and the Catamount Tavern (where Vermont's militia, the Green Mountain boys, used to meet) on the reverse. The Commission rejected the bust and building motif as too pedestrian and insisted that the militia be represented by a real catamount. Thus the Commission gave us an aesthetically-pleasing, but historically irrelevant, portrait of a cougar (actually a stuffed cougar that is the namesake for the tavern) on the reverse. This 30.6mm coin was issued in .900 fine silver weighing 12.5 grams. Final mintage was 28,142. Although these coins were sold at a premium by the Vermont Sesquicentennial Commission, they are legal tender and a few may have circulated during the Depression. Other countries that have honored the puma on coins are Canada, Cook Islands, Liberia, Panama and Uruguay. Only the Uruguayan coins circulated.

Cheetah (*Acionyx jubatus*) on NCLT silver enameled crown
Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic 500 peseta 1996 KM29



The cheetah is unique among felines in that it does not hold territory and hunts by running down its prey. They also have smaller claw sheaths than other cats so their claws are always visible. This similarity to dogs led early taxonomists to assume the cheetah was one of the earliest cats, but modern research has shown it evolved less than ten million years

ago. The name cheetah is from the Sanskrit for "spotted one". Cheetahs are the fastest land animals and have been clocked at 70 mph. Their speed is enhanced by their long legs, flexible spine, and light weight (100-125 pounds). Their range used to include almost all of southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. They were worshipped by the ancient Egyptians, and Moghul emperors four centuries ago kept trained cheetahs as hunting cats. The cheetah has appeared on commemoratives from over a dozen countries and even circulating coins from Mozambique. This 38mm pure silver coin portrays a cheetah bust selectively enameled in yellow and tan. It weighs 20 grams and was minted in 1996 by the Havana, Cuba mint as part of a multi-national color conservation series. Formerly Spanish Sahara, Saharawi has been mostly under Moroccan occupation since Spain left in 1975.

5. Serval

Serval (*Felis leptailurus serval*) on photographic fantasy medal
Cook Islands Commemorative 2011



The serval is not closely related to any other species, and so has no clade. They are lanky with long legs like the cheetah, and hunt in grasslands along riverbeds throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Their over-sized ears can detect nibbling rodents yards away. Servals are good at leaping and pouncing, but not climbing trees. They weigh

between 20 and 40 pounds, and usually have a tawny coat with black spots, but are also known to be mostly black. Chinese metal shops produce a large number of medals, fantasies, and counterfeits. In 2003,

the Cook Islands authorized a set of dollars commemorating the zodiac (KM424-435). The struck obverse has a small elderly portrait of Queen Elizabeth II over a round device with her name on the left, the country at right, and the denomination at the bottom. This design was widely copied in China, and this medal has the same obverse design except the word COMMEMORATION replaces the denomination and the round device has an incuse eleven-rayed sun on it. The photo is attached to a 40mm 29.8 gram brass disk. There are no coins portraying servals, and this is the only known medal. These are struck to order, so it is possible fewer than a dozen were made.

6. Caracal Clade

Caracal (*Caracal caracal*)

on gold bullion coin South Africa 100 rands 2004



The caracal clade evolved around ten million years ago, probably splitting off from the serval. Caracals live in hot, dry environments in Africa and the Middle East, and have adapted by growing longer ears and ear tufts to help dissipate the heat. These cats were called caracal by the Turks, which means "black ear". They are often confused with

the lynx, but are only distantly related. The South African Mint started the Natura series in 1994 to commemorate their famous wildlife in gold 1/10, 1/4, 1/2, and 1 ounce coins. In recent years, they added a silver series and also rand denominations. This one ounce pure gold coin of 2004 has a diameter of 33mm. In addition to the set of four South African coins, caracals have been commemorated by NCLT coins from Cook Islands, Niger, Oman, Turkmenistan, and Viet Nam.

African Golden Cat (*Profelis aurata*) on circulation-style base-metal commemorative Democratic Republic of Congo 1 franc 2004 KM174



Related to the caracal is the African golden cat, which lives in the forests of central Africa, from Sierra Leone to Kenya. They weigh up to 35 pounds and have golden brown to dark gray coats. Their legs are also shorter than most cats. The only coin to portray the African golden cat is from

the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), and is a 21mm 6 gram copper-nickel franc dated 2004. Only 5,000 were minted as part of a series of low-denomination, base-metal conservation commemoratives. An additional 25 were issued on 21mm 8 gram silver planchets (KM174a). No proofs were issued.

7. Bengal Clade

Leopard or Bengal Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis euphilus*) on NCLT silver crown Russia 1 ruble 2004 Y828



The leopard cat is the most common cat in the wild, but very rare on coins. The Bengal clade evolved around five million years ago. The leopard cat lives throughout southern and eastern Asia. They are about the size of a house cat at 6-15 pounds, and are not picky about their prey. Their coats are spotted. The only coin honoring the leopard cat is a silver ruble from Russia.

Dated 2004, this 33mm conservation commemorative is made from .900 fine silver and weighs 17.28 grams. It identifies the cat as an Amur forest cat, which is the Manchurian variety of leopard cat and is the largest subspecies (Amur is east of Manchuria, where Siberian tigers also live). Only 10,000 were minted and only in proof.

Iriomote Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis iriomotensis*) on NCLT silver crown Isle Man 1 crown 1997 KM779



First discovered in 1964, the Iriomote cat only lives on the island of Iriomotejima of the Ryuku chain south of Japan. Fewer than a hundred survive in the wild. The Iriomote cat may be a subspecies of leopard cat, but most taxonomists consider them to be their own species. The Iriomote cat is house cat-sized, with an average weight of 11 pounds. The only coin to portray the Iriomote cat is this Isle

of Man crown issued in 1997 as part of a set that commemorated the history of the house cat. It is 38.6mm, sterling silver and weighs 28.28 grams. Only 10,000 were minted and only in proof.

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8. Lynx Clade**European Lynx** (*Lynx lynx*)

on pattern coin Poland 100 zlotych 1979 KM-Pr353



The European lynx prefers forests. There are groups currently attempting to save or reintroduce them to central and eastern Europe, where human encroachment has been disastrous. However, the lynx is plentiful in Russia, particularly east of the Urals. The term lynx actually originated in Europe, from the Greek for "light", possibly referring to their reflective

eyes. The European lynx is portrayed on this 1979 Polish pattern (proba). It was issued in the second year of a series of coins commemorating environmental protection, each portraying an endangered species native to Poland. Both patterns and regular coins were issued in .625 fine silver on 32mm 16.5 gram planchets. Only 4,100 patterns were issued versus 20,000 regular coins, which portray the lynx stretching. The Warsaw Mint has a long history of selling patterns to collectors. A dozen countries have issued coins showing the lynx.

Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) on token coinage Los Coyotes one dime 2011

The lynx clade evolved four million years ago, and the bobcat is the oldest species. It ranges from Canada to Mexico, avoiding urban areas such as the northeastern U.S. It was once widely hunted but now is protected in many states, while others regulate trapping of bobcats for their fur. At an average of 20 pounds, the bobcat is the size of a large house cat, but

always has black spots on brown fur and thick ruff around the neck. They are named for their small tail, about 6 inches in length. The bobcat is only portrayed on the coinage of Los Coyotes Band of Indians, a U.S. federally-recognized sovereign government. Their reservation is near San Diego, and there are 382 registered members of the band. The reservation is impoverished, but they are working with the City of Barstow to open a casino. These coins are really tokens because they are only valid on the reservation (and presumably the casino, should it

open). They were commissioned to raise revenue. Different animals appear on each denomination. The bobcat is on the 23mm, 4.9 gram cupronickel dime along with its native name Tukut.

Iberian or Spanish Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*)

on NCLT gold coin Spain 80,000 peseta 1994 KM945



The lynx is the most widespread of the wild cats, living in the Americas and Eurasia. They range in size from 3' to 5' in length, and 40-90 pounds in weight. These cats all have noticeable ear tufts, short tails, and usually have a thick ruff of fur at the base of the head. Their fur tends to have a slight mottling of tawny colors. The Iberian lynx is the most endangered species of lynx. There are fewer than 200

individuals extant, most living in two preserves in southern Spain where they can find their favorite prey, rabbits. The Iberian Lynx is smaller than its Eurasian cousins and its coat pattern is more regularly spotted. Spain issued a number of conservation commemoratives in 1994-96 as silver 2,000 or 5,000 peseta coins. The lynx was the only animal of the series to be honored on both a silver and gold coin. This 38mm pure gold coin weighs 27 grams, and 5,000 were issued only in proof. Both Cuba and Liberia have also issued NCLT coins portraying the Iberian lynx.

Canadian Lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*)

on platinum bullion coin Canada \$300 1995 KM269



The Canadian lynx lives throughout Canada except for the Maritime provinces, but also can be found in Alaska and the very northern plains states of the U.S. Their main prey is the snowshoe hare. Both the Canadian lynx and snowshoe hare have large feet to allow for easy movement in snow. Lynx have been known to also eat caribou calves, squirrels, and

grouse. The Canadian lynx is represented here on a 1995 30mm platinum ounce bullion \$300 of Canada. A total of 2182 were minted, including 682 in sets. It portrays a lynx mother with 3 cubs. Canada started issuing

bullion coins with a \$50 gold ounce in 1979, and added platinum and silver bullion coins in 1988. Originally the platinum coins only showed a maple leaf with the denomination, but from 1990 until 2001 Canada issued a series of Canadian wildlife commemoratives with a \$30 tenth, \$75 quarter, \$150 half, and \$300 ounce. Other Canadian lynx coins are a circulating silver 25 cent for the centennial in 1967, four silver coins reusing the 1995 designs in 2005, and a bimetal \$2 in 2010.

9. Neofelis Clade

Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) on NCLT World Wildlife Fund gold coin Malaysia 250 ringgit 1992 KM63



The clouded leopard is the only survivor of the neofelis clade. They evolved five million years ago and live throughout southeast Asia, from Nepal to Taiwan and Borneo. They have very long tails (almost half their size) and large canine teeth. Their coat is graying brown with large spots. At 50 pounds, they are the smallest of the

big cats, and are the only one that regularly hunts in trees. They have webbed feet. This 22mm, 8.6 gram .900 fine gold coin was the first to portray a clouded leopard. Issued in 1992 to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the World Wildlife Fund, it has the WWF Panda logo on the obverse. Only 3,000 were issued and only in proof. The only other clouded leopard coins are a 1996 silver NCLT 10 yuan from China and a 2003 circulating brass 50 sen from Malaysia. Many other World Wildlife Fund coins have been issued by several countries over the years.

10. Panthera Clade

Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) on NCLT silver crown with selective gilding and inset stones Liberia 2005 \$10 KM756

The panther clade diverged from other cats around ten million years ago, but most existing large cats evolved within the last two million years. The jaguar is the only large cat in recorded history to live in the Americas. It looks like a leopard but is larger (200-300 pounds) and has spots inside of its rosette pattern. Both the leopard and jaguar can also have an all-black coat. The jaguar once roamed from the American



southwest down to the tip of South America, but today is restricted to the plains and jungles of Central and South America. They are arboreal and only enter water to hunt. Although the coin says Belize, it was issued by a private mint in the name of Liberia as part of a series of 36 wildlife commemoratives. The 38mm pure silver planchet weighs 20 grams. The jaguar lying on a tree limb has been gilded in pure gold, and manmade diamonds set in the eyes. Each coin in the series has a mintage of 5,000 in proof only. Brazil and Guyana have issued circulating coins portraying a jaguar, while Belize, Congo Republic, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Niue, Panama, and Venezuela have issued NCLT coins.

Leopard or Panther or Pard (*Panthera pardus*)

on NCLT silver crown with photograph Malawi 10 kwacha 2005

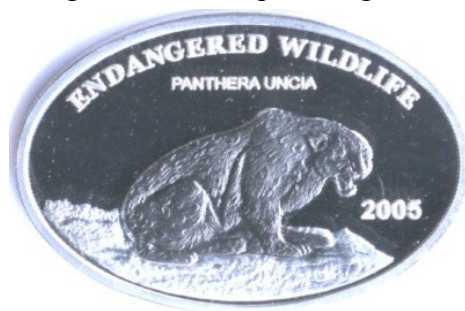


The leopard lives in Africa and Asia. Though smaller than most of the roaring cats (100-200 pounds), they are nonetheless very powerful creatures. Leopards live in trees and often drag the carcasses of their kills, which can weigh twice as much as they do, up into the tree branches. Most leopards have rosette spots, but some are completely black. The leopard is here shown on a 39mm silver coin weighing 29 grams. Minted as part of a series on African wildlife, it has a photo of a leopard mother grooming her cub. Mintage is unknown, and this coin is not listed in Krause. Leopards have been portrayed on a large number of modern (and even ancient) coins, and also in the coats of arms of several African countries.

Snow Leopard or Ounce (*Uncia uncia*) on NCLT silver-niobium bimetallic crown with irregular shape Mongolia 500 tugrik 2005 KM209

The snow leopard is the most endangered panther. It lives in central Asian mountains and has long, thick fur to shelter it from the cold. Their coats are light gray with black spots. They weigh 90-160 pounds and are seven feet long including three feet of thick, bushy tail. Their main prey

are goats and sheep. Mongolia is the northernmost range of the ounce,



and in 2005 issued this unique coin type honoring the snow leopard. First, it is a bimetallic coin with a niobium plug in a silver ring. Niobium is a rare gray metal (atomic number 41) first isolated in 1846. Second, unlike Austrian and Latvian round silver coins with round niobium centers, this

Mongolian coin has a snow leopard-shaped center and the sterling silver part is a 30x45mm oval. Only 5,000 were made and only in proof. The snow leopard also appeared on NCLT coins from Afghanistan, Bhutan, British Virgin Islands, China, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Nepal, and Russia.

Lion (*Panthera leo*) on NCLT silver megacoin

The Gambia 100 dalasi 1996 KM45 (photo on cover)

The lion is the best-known member of the cat family and the most often represented on coins. Large, powerful hunters with a majestic mane and loud roar, they have been symbols of authority for millennia. Lions grow up to 9' in length (including the tail) and weigh up to 420 pounds. The first leonine animals evolved 1,800,000 years ago, but the earliest true lions date back only 600,000 years. They used to live in the Americas, Africa, and Eurasia, but today are restricted to sub-Saharan Africa and a small reserve in India. Lions are the only felines where the two genders can differ significantly in appearance—only the males (though not all of them) have a large mane framing their faces. Lions are also the only felines to regularly form groups. On the African plains, lion sisters and female cousins form groups called prides, which have one or two permanent or itinerant adult males, unrelated to the lionesses. Lions were pictured on the first coins issued in the West and appear in many national coats of arms. The African lion family is here represented on a pure silver coin weighing one kilogram (over 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ Troy pounds). It shows a male lion lying upright to the left, a lioness seated behind and to the right with a lion cub climbing on the back of the lion. Only 1,000 were minted and only in proof. This coin is part of a growing trend (started by China in 1984) of issuing huge, multi-ounce precious metal commemorative coins.

Tiger (*Panthera igris*)

on NCLT gold zodiac coin with hologram Canada \$150 2010



The largest member of the cat family in recorded history, the tiger is considered the lord of the jungle throughout Asia. Tigers can get up to 12 feet in length (including the tail), and weigh up to 600 pounds. The tiger's coat is reddish, with a white underbelly and black stripes, though some Bengal tigers have an all-white coat with or without black stripes. The stripes help the tigers hide in tall grass. The tiger has appeared on a number of coins since medieval times, especially ones celebrating the Oriental zodiac. Recently, the Royal Canadian Mint has issued many innovative coins. Among those issued for the 2010 year of the tiger is this \$150 gold coin which portrays a stylized tiger crouching left in a color hologram. Since 8 is a lucky number in China, the mintage was limited to 4,888. The 28mm coin is made of 18 karat gold (alloyed only with silver) and weighs 11.8 grams.

Liger (*Panthera leo-tigris*)

commemorative medal Utah Numismatic Society 2006



All cats are closely related, leading to long arguments among taxonomists. It can be difficult to differentiate between species and subspecies. This also means that different felines can inter-breed. Though rarely done in the wild, lions, tigers, jaguars and leopards in captivity interbreed on their own and with the assistance of their human keepers. The

nomenclature standard is to use the first part of the sire's species name and the second part of the mother's: ligers, liguars, liards, tigons, tiguars, tigards, jaglions, jagers, jagupards, leopons, dogla (Hindi for leoger), and leguars. The liger has existed since the early 1800s. They have tawny coats like lions but with tiger stripes. They also grow to enormous size, as long as ten feet (including tail) and weigh up to 700 pounds. This is because the gene that stops production of growth hormone exists in the female lion and male tiger. Ligers are less fertile than pure breeds but they can reproduce. No feline hybrids appear on coins, and only the liger has appeared on medals, those being from the French Parc

Zoologique de Thoiry and the Utah Numismatic Society. The 39mm, 26.5 gram brass medal here commemorates the 75th anniversary of Salt Lake City's Hogle Zoo and portrays its former resident Shasta the female liger, the oldest known liger who died in 1972 at age 24.

Conclusion

Felines are among the most often portrayed animals on coins. While we are all familiar with coins showing the big cats, in recent years there has been a growing focus on the ecology and preserving wild species, resulting in many small cats being shown on coins and medals. Though some of the coins described in this article are pricey, there are many reasonably priced coins around for someone who wants to form their own menagerie on a budget.

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Local News

MSNA Life Member William H. Cowburn, Jr. passed away February 24, 2013. Born on January 7, 1955 in Bainbridge, Maryland, Bill was most recently employed with the Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System. He gave seminars, published various articles, exhibited, and has received numerous awards for his achievements in numismatics.

MSNA Vice President Scott Barman is running for governor of the American Numismatic Association. There is a crowded field this time, 14 candidates for 7 slots. He spoke at the Candidates' Forum at the ANA spring convention in New Orleans, which can be viewed on You Tube. If you are a member of the ANA, please vote on line or by paper ballot during the month of June.

In April, the **Washington Numismatic Society** hosted **Karen Lee** of the Smithsonian who talked on her latest book, *The Sketchbook of George Morgan* and the latest plans for the Smithsonian numismatic collection.

Wayne Wilcox talked at the May meeting on James E. Fraser's life with emphasis on his design of the Buffalo nickel and other numismatic items along with images of many of his works in the Washington, DC area. The June 18 meeting will include the semi-annual pot luck dinner at begin at 7 PM at the Community of Christ Church, 3526 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC. Enter through the alley behind the church.

Mike Markowitz, the President of the Ancient Numismatic Society of Washington DC, gave an introduction to collecting ancient coins to the **Montgomery County Coin Club** in March. **Chris Jorritson** and **Ari Mendelson** spoke on Geocaching and their medals in April. The May meeting highlighted a wrap-up on the ANA National Money Show.



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On June 11, **Martin Solano** will speak on the use of coins in archeological dating. MCCC meets at the Schweinhaut Senior Citizens Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring just outside the beltway between the Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road exits.

Coin Club Meeting Calendar (most months)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
first				Baltimore
second	Cambridge, Colonial	Montgomery, West Maryland	Belmar, Catonsville	
third	Colonial (some- times), Bel Mar	Washington Numis. Soc.		Baltimore
fourth		Bowie		MSNA Board

MSNA Treasurer and Editor **Simcha Kuritzky** exhibited at the ANA's National Money Show in New Orleans. His exhibit on Henrietta Szold (which was shown at the MSNA exhibit competition in March) won second place in the Common Theme class and his Ba'al Shem Tov amulet engraved coins exhibit (which won first place in last year's MSNA exhibit competition) took first place in the Arts class. He also won third place in the ANA's 2013 National Coin Week Video Hunt for Black Diamond.

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What's Your Sign?

Part Eighteen: Beckton Medals

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

The Danbury Mint of Norwalk, Connecticut issued a set of zodiac medals in 1970 in bronze, sterling silver, and copper-nickel. Each medal has an image on the obverse with the Latin name and dates beneath, while the reverse has the sigil, attributes of those born under the sign, the "best" day, lucky color, and lucky number. Although the Danbury Mint is in the U.S., they use the British spelling "colour". I have a note that these were sold in Canada. The inscriptions are as follows:

Zodiac Sign	Num, Color, Day	Dates
	Description of One Born Under this Sign	
♈ Aries	8 red Tuesday Realistic and enthusiastic	March 21 st –April 19 th
♉ Taurus	3 yellow Friday Practical and reliable	April 20 th –May 20 th
♊ Gemini	5 blue Wednesday Charming and imaginative	May 21 st – June 21 st
♋ Cancer	2 green Monday Romantic and original	June 22 nd –July 22 nd
♌ Leo	1 gold Sunday Passionate and ambitious	July 23 rd –August 22 nd
♍ Virgo	5 blue Wednesday Inventive and sympathetic	August 23 rd – September 22 nd
♎ Libra	6 yellow Friday Artistic and charming	September 23 rd – October 23 rd
♏ Scorpio	8 deep red Tuesday Determined and resourceful	October 24 th – November 21 st
♐ Sagittarius	3 purple Thursday Honourable and optimistic	November 22 nd – December 21 st
♑ Capricorn	4 brown Saturday Persevering and shrewd	December 22 nd – January 19 th
♒ Aquarius	7 orange Saturday Humane and thoughtful	January 20 th – February 18 th
♓ Pisces	9 grey Thursday Patient and tactful	February 19 th – March 20 th



I found a 31 by 32cm one page album for the registered limited edition proof set with a sun face design in the center and the medals arranged around like a clock with Aquarius at 12 o'clock, progressing clockwise. The colors are related to the ruling planet, but not the traditional colors (except Leo, ruled by the sun, is associated with the color gold, and Scorpio and Aries, ruled by Mars, are associated with red and deep red, are the traditional colors). The numbers are almost evenly distributed, only 3, 5, and 8 are repeated, and 5 and 8 are each associated with the same planet.

The sterling silver and some of the bronze medals are hallmarked on the edge. The hallmarked medals have the artist initials NB between the sign name and the animal picture on the obverse. Below the reverse inscription is a Danbury Mint hallmark cursive d over m with a non-cursive capital H next to it. On some medals this hallmark is clear, but on others it is very faint. All the medals I own have a proof-like field except for the copper-nickel which has a pebbled field.

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There is a more rare version that has no mint hallmark below or sigil above (shown here only for Capricorn).

I also have found a number of the medals in German, all 30mm aluminum. These seem to be a literal translation of the English (or maybe the English is a literal translation of the German; I don't know which is the original). All the associations are the same; unfortunately I only have seven of the German medals. These medals use the same figures for the zodiac signs but have no hallmarks.

Zodiac Sign	Num, Color, Day	Dates
Name, (figure)	Description of One Born Under this Sign	
♈ Stier (bull)	3 gelb Freitag	20. April–20. Mai
♊ Zwillinge (twins)	5 blau Mittwoch	21. Mai–21. Juni
♌ Löwe (lion)	1 gold Sonntag	23. Juli–22. August
♍ Jungfrau (maiden)	5 blau Mittwoch	23. August–22. September
	Erfinderisch und sympathisch	



Zodiac Sign Name, (figure)	Num, Color, Day	Dates
♎ Waage (scales)	6 gelb Freitag	23. September–23. Oktober
♊ Wasserman (water bearer)	7 orange Samstag	20. Januar–18. Februar
♈ Fische (fish)	9 grau Donnerstag	19. Februar–20. März
	Geduldig und taktvoll	



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Maryland Coin Show Dates

All shows have free admission. Only the Whitman show does not have free parking.

2 June–Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition Show, Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson, MD; 9-4. 410-256-1832 evening.

7-8 June – Frederick Coin & Currency Show, Grange Hall, 1 South 8th Alley, New Market, MD; 9:30-4:30.

20-23 June – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. *MSNA Distinguished Speakers Series Lecture on Friday 2PM Room 330.*

29 June – Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp and Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Rd (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

30 June – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

20 July – Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp and Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Rd (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

24 Aug. – Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp and Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Rd (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

15 Sept. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

22 Sept. – Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition Show, Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson, MD; 9-4. 410-256-1832 evening.

5 Oct. – Associated Coin Clubs, Middle River Recreation Center, Compass Road and Martin Blvd., 10-3.

5 Oct. – Maryland Tokens And Medals Society (MTAMS) semi-annual swap meet at Grace United Methodist Church, Northern Parkway and Charles St. Baltimore. noon-3PM. Open to the public, but table holders must be members. Contact Ed Craig 410-284-8382 for tables.

6 Oct. – Westminster Fire Hall Coin and Currency Show, Westminster Fire Hall, 28 John Street, Westminster, MD; 9-4:30.

26-27 Oct. – CEO Coins, Currency & Treasurers Ocean City Show, Ocean City (Roland E. Powell) Convention Center, 4001 Ocean Highway & 40th Street, Ocean City, MD; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4.

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